Clashes in Upper Nile and Jonglei

Highlight

Violent clashes between the Lou Nuer and Murle have been reported with attacks occurring in Ulang, Upper Nile and Akobo, Jonglei State causing health actors to mobilise and respond to the emergency.

◊ Since Friday 9th March over 75 trauma victims have been admitted to Akobo Hospital, 65 of which have been gun shot wounds.

◊ Health partners sent boats to retrieve the injured from locations where they were known to be congregating in Wanding, Kier and Delule.

◊ An estimated 700 IDPs have been reported in Delule Payam. However, 60,000 may have been affected with cattle from a possible 15,000 households taken.

◊ There are reports of 200 people being killed during the clashes although this number is not verified.

◊ 14 unaccompanied children were identified by health partners in Wanding on 11th March and child protection actors are intervening.

◊ There are fears of continuing insecurity as clashes reportedly still occurring until 13.03.12.

Health agencies responding to the emergency: IMC, ICRC, GOAL, MSF, WHO, Ministry of Health, Upper Nile State Ministry of Health, Jonglei State Ministry of Health, Akobo County Commissioner RoSS, UNMISS

Injured

On 9th March clashes were reported to have occurred in various cattle camps in Ulang County. Camps in Romyeri, Madreth, Payuer, Nyambik and Lual Yian were attacked. Subsequent clashes are reported to have occurred in Lirea on 12th March, Delule on 13th March.

Injured from the clashes moved southward to Wanding and on 9th and 10th March where 57 injured took boats to reach assistance at Akobo hospital one of whom died en route. Simultaneously a total of 8 boats were sent on 10th and 11th March to Wanding to retrieve the injured, led by the Akobo County Commissioner, PRDA, County Health Department, NHDF and IMC. A total of 16 were collected. Further boats were sent to Delule on 12th and 13th March as 4 wounded from fighting in Lirea started to present at Akobo Hospital on 12th March.

Of the total 75 patients admitted 65 were gun shot wounds, 12 were women and 5 were children.
Emergency Health Response

Akobo hospital in Jonglei state supported by IMC is currently handling over 95% of all the injured patients resulting from the fighting in Romyereh and Lirea payams. The hospital has a capacity of 76 beds, 1 operating theatre, 1 surgeon, 1 anaesthetic nurse, 150 medical and support staff in total, 1 x-ray and 1 ultrasound. WHO has supported the hospital on 12th March providing IV fluids, antibiotics and sundries to deal with the initial surge. IMC is procuring further supplies. The Ministry of Health has also deployed 1 surgeon and 2 doctors to help deal with the surge demand and have been working in the hospital since 13th March.

Thokwath PHCU and Delule PHCU have received some patients injured in Romyeri and Lirea en route to Akobo hospital and support for the peripheral health facilities is being increased.

ICRC based at Malakal Teaching Hospital transferred 4 patients from Akobo Hospital on Monday 12 03 12 for surgery, further treatment and management. The team remains on standby should there be further need.

Surgical capacity mapping has also been conducted in preparedness of any escalation or spread of the conflict. Hospitals identified to offer emergency support includes: Malakal Teaching Hospital supported by the ICRC and Nasir Hospital supported by MSF. Other MSF supported facilities prepared to handle patients include: Lankien PHCC (Nyiroi County, Jonglei), Pieri and Yuai PHCUs (Uror, Jonglei) and Leer Hospital (Leer County, Unity). It is felt however that Lou Nuer are currently less likely to spontaneously present to Nasir hospital due to clashes 3 weeks ago in Nasir between Nuer Ajok and Lou Nuer which may have resulted in decrease in access to the hospital (a Jikiani area, related to the Nuer Ajok). It was noted however that the situation seems calm and the hospital is able to accept referrals. Doma PHCU, Ying PHCU and Ulang PHCC in Ulang county supported by GOAL are also on standby to offer support should the clashes spread.
Rapid health assessments carried out in Delule on 13th March observed near 700 IDPs, however due to insecurity during the assessment the population dispersed. It was noted that populations displaced were those who permanently resided in Romyeri, Leria and Wanding.

Multiple coordination meetings have been held at county, state and central level between health service providers, Ministry of Health, the Health Cluster, OCHA, WHO and UNMISS regarding supporting interventions and the potential for medevacs. UNMISS have supported the response conducting assessments in Wanding and transporting emergency medical supplies given by WHO, and surge capacity staff from the Ministry of Health to Akobo Hospital.

**Plans**

Health partners continue to work closely, coordinating response and delivering surge capacity. As determined by health partners it was planned that:

- IMC would provide further medical supplies from own stock (sent 14th March) and surge personnel
- IMC are to continue updates regarding new patients, total patient profile at Akobo Hospital and the need for any further referrals or support
- Increased support to peripheral PHCUs e.g. Thokwat and Thokliel, including commencement of nutrition screening.
- Close monitoring of the humanitarian situation needed. An interagency assessment is to be conducted on Thursday 15th March in Akobo and Delule to determine wider sectoral needs
- ICRC, MSF, GOAL and other health partners to update if any injured patients are received and if any change in capacity to receive referrals
- WHO to support as needed with supplies or otherwise
- UNMISS to coordinate and update OCHA regarding assessments, and to work with Health Cluster prior to any Medevac being initiated to ensure appropriate referral and capacity of health facility to receive
- Health Cluster to continue close coordination with all partners including Ministry of Health and State Ministries of Health.

**History of conflict**

Following the inter-tribal conflicts between Lou Nuer and the Murle in late December 2011 in which over 5000 Lou Nuer youth from Northern Jonglei State were reported to have mobilised, fears of revenge attacks have been mounting. The two sides have a long history against each other and both have continued to engage in multiple clashes in 2011 into 2012.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Estimated deaths</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 2011</td>
<td>Ulang</td>
<td>No estimate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 2011</td>
<td>Pibor and others</td>
<td>No estimate (but large scale)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 2011*</td>
<td>Uror</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2011*</td>
<td>Pibor</td>
<td>430</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April to June 2011*</td>
<td>Over 75 small attacks state wide</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 2011*</td>
<td>Pibor and Pochalla</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan to April 2011*</td>
<td>Over 45 small attacks state wide</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*From OCHA South Sudan Update August 2011
Health Cluster partners

Partners working with cluster at state or central level: Ministry of Health and all State Ministries of Health, AAH-I, Across, ADRA, AMREF, ARC, Arkangelo Ali Association (AAA), AVSI, BRAC, CARE, Carter Centre, CDoT Central Equatoria, CDoT Eastern Equatoria, Caritas, CARE, CCM, CEFA, CISP, CMA, CMMB, Concern Worldwide, COSV, CP, CRADA, CRS, CUAMM, DAE, DeFROSS, Diakone, Diocese of Malakal, DKH Germany, Doctors with Africa, ECS Minye Diocese, ECS Nzara Diocese, ECS of Rhumbek, ECS, Food for the Hungry, GOAL, Handicap International, Healthnet TPO, IMA, IMC, International Aid Services, IOM, IRC, John Dau Foundation, Johanitter International Association, John Snow Inc, JOT, Malaria Consortium, Malteser International, Marie Stopes International, Massachussettes General Hospital, MayDI, Medair, Merlin, MRDO, MSH, NCA, NCDA, Netherlands Red Cross, NHDF, NHI, NPA, Oxfam, Polish Centre for International Aid, PSI, Relief International, Samaritan’s Purse, Save the Children in South Sudan, Servant’s Heart, Sign of Hope, South Sudan Red Cross, SSAC, SSYM, SUDRA, Sudan Medical Relief (Dr Jill), SUHA, Tearfund, THESO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNKEA, UNIDO, WHO, World Vision International, World Relief. International observers: MSF, ICRC. Donor observers: ECHO, OFDA, CIDA, DFID, EU, USAID.

National and State Health Clusters

The national Health Cluster is led by Ministry of Health, WHO and Co Lead from GOAL.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Co Lead</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Northern Bahr el Ghazal</td>
<td>Malaria Consortium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Bahr el Ghazal</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warrrap</td>
<td>World Vision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western equatoria</td>
<td>World Vision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lakes</td>
<td>Malteser International</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central equatoria</td>
<td>NPA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unity</td>
<td>Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper nile</td>
<td>IMA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jonglei</td>
<td>IMA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern equatoria</td>
<td>NPA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

State clusters operate in all 10 states and in each are led by State Ministry of Health, WHO and NGO Co Leads from various agencies. As such we would like to thank all partners for their support and hard work.

Contacts

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